

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the present Office action, claims 29-50 were examined. Claims 48-50 were allowed. Claims 29-47 were rejected. By this amendment, claims 29-47 have been cancelled. Claims 48-51 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

The Examiner rejected claims 29-47 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention. As noted above, claims 29-47 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. The Examiner's rejections with regards to claims 29-47 are therefore rendered moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner allowed claims 48-50.

The Amendment

Claim 51 has been added. Claim 51 is identical to previously pending claim 47 as amended by Applicant's amendment of March 26, 2002. However, there appears to be a discrepancy between the records of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the appropriate status of previously pending claim 47. Specifically, while the amendment of March 26, 2002 was entered, it appears that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office did not correctly enter the amendments to claim 47. Rather than amending once again claim 47, Applicant has chosen to avoid any further confusion by resubmitting claim 47 as amended on March 26, 2002 as a new claim, specifically newly added claim 51. For the



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reasons noted in the amendment of March 26, 2002, claim 51 is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

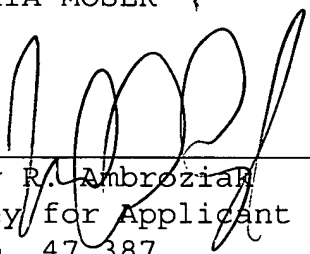
An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any additional fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

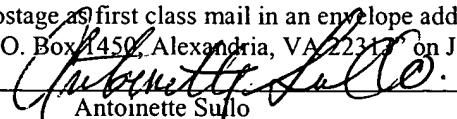
Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 8, 2004

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on January 8, 2004


Antoinette Sufio